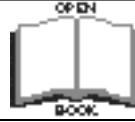


Selection Test

from Beowulf
translated by Burton Raffel



Pupil's Edition page 20

Comprehension (30 points; 6 points each)

On the line provided, write the letter of the *best* answer to each of the following items.

- _____ 1. Beowulf slays Grendel to
 - a. save Hrothgar and the Danes from the monster
 - b. prevent Grendel from invading the land of the Geats
 - c. enhance Unferth's reputation as a warrior
 - d. carry off the treasure in Grendel's lair

- _____ 2. Unferth challenges Beowulf because Unferth
 - a. wants to prove that Beowulf is a liar
 - b. envies Beowulf's fame and courage
 - c. knows that he is stronger than Beowulf
 - d. thinks Brecca is a better man than Beowulf

- _____ 3. Which of the following statements about Wiglaf is true?
 - a. He believes in and speaks about the intrinsic goodness of all people.
 - b. He is not a worthy successor to the throne because he is inexperienced.
 - c. He makes an eloquent speech about the virtues of loyalty and bravery.
 - d. He tells Beowulf that the other warriors will desert Beowulf when he needs them most.

- _____ 4. What last thoughts does Beowulf express as he is dying?
 - a. a desire for respect and pride in his ability to protect his people
 - b. bitterness because his soldiers did not help him fight the dragon
 - c. fear that the kingdom of the Geats will disintegrate after he dies
 - d. affection and longing for his family

- _____ 5. Which of the following events is most important in Beowulf's career as leader of the Geats?
 - a. the attack on the dragon
 - b. the speech for the prince
 - c. the celebration that involved both Danes and Geats
 - d. the tracing of the bloody footprints

Literary Elements

On the line provided, write the letter of the *best* answer to each of the following items.

The Epic Hero (10 points; 5 points each)

- _____ 6. Which of the following statements *best* supports the idea that Beowulf is an epic hero?
 - a. He displays intense pride in his country.
 - b. He becomes more humble over time.
 - c. He loves nature and abhors civilization.
 - d. He embodies the ideals of Anglo-Saxon society.

- _____ 7. Which of the following statements *best* shows that Beowulf has the ethics of an epic hero?
- a. Beowulf wins a swimming contest.
 - b. Beowulf berates Unferth for killing his own kin.
 - c. Beowulf asks his followers to steal the dragon's hoard.
 - d. Beowulf makes a pact with Grendel.

Alliteration and Kennings (10 points; 5 points each)

- _____ 8. Which of the following quotations from *Beowulf* contains alliteration?
- a. "Murderous flames, spreading them everywhere."
 - b. "But war could have followed."
 - c. "The ancient blade broke, bit . . . , drew blood"
 - d. "The monster came quickly toward him."
- _____ 9. Which of the following quotations from *Beowulf* contains a kenning?
- a. "And all at once the greedy she-wolf"
 - b. "At last he saw the mud of the bottom."
 - c. "Woven metal had not helped"
 - d. "the steel-edged blade lay where / He'd dropped it."

Vocabulary (20 points; 2 points each)

Match the definition on the left with the Word to Own on the right. Write the letter of the Word to Own on the line provided.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| _____ 10. cries of grief | a. sinews |
| _____ 11. payment to compensate for wrongdoing | b. pilgrimage |
| _____ 12. peace | c. laments |
| _____ 13. highly annoyed | d. solace |
| _____ 14. punishment in return for an injury | e. vexed |
| _____ 15. tendons | f. taut |
| _____ 16. journey made to a place of religious or historical interest | g. murky |
| _____ 17. disgusting | h. reparation |
| _____ 18. shadowy | i. reprisal |
| _____ 19. stretched tight | j. loathsome |

Written Response (30 points)

20. All heroes slay "dragons"—powerful forces of one kind or another. Some heroes, such as Mother Teresa, combat the monsters of disease and poverty, while others, such as the first astronauts, conquer their own fears while exploring uncharted territory. What challenges of Anglo-Saxon life are represented by the monsters Beowulf fights? On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph in which you answer the question drawing on your knowledge of Anglo-Saxon society and on the imagery associated with the monsters in the selection. Support your ideas with at least two references to Anglo-Saxon life or *Beowulf*.

Answer Key

THE ANGLO-SAXONS

LITERARY PERIOD INTRODUCTION TEST, page 1

1. d 2. a 3. c 4. d 5. c
6. d 7. c 8. a 9. d 10. c

Collection 1: Songs of Ancient Heroes

from *Beowulf*

SELECTION TEST, page 3

Comprehension

1. a 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. a

Literary Elements

6. d 7. b 8. c 9. a

Vocabulary

10. c 11. h 12. d 13. e 14. i
15. a 16. b 17. j 18. g 19. f

Written Response

20. Responses will vary. In a model response, students should fulfill the following criteria:
- demonstrate understanding of the prompt
 - describe challenges in Anglo-Saxon life that the monsters in *Beowulf* represent. For example:
 - The monsters may represent enemies from other lands. Warfare was a constant condition of Anglo-Saxon life. The monsters' ferociousness and ruthlessness suggest the violence of marauding warriors.
 - The monsters' carnage might symbolize the brevity of life in Anglo-Saxon times—war, disease, and an extraordinarily harsh environment caused many people to die young.
 - incorporate knowledge of Anglo-Saxon society as well as images associated with the monster. For example:
 - The warriors of Anglo-Saxon times, like the monsters, were ruthless, destroying almost everything and everyone they encountered. Similarly, Grendel commits wholesale slaughter at Herot, delighting in the blood he spills; Grendel's mother takes savage revenge, invading Herot and killing Hrothgar's best friend; and the dragon, furious because someone stole its jeweled cup, lays waste to all the land of the Geats.

Each monster is relentless, merciless, and vicious—like an invading warrior.

- support ideas with at least two references to Anglo-Saxon life and *Beowulf* (previous examples are sufficient)

The Seafarer

SELECTION TEST, page 5

Comprehension

1. a 2. c 3. b 4. d 5. c
6. c 7. a

Literary Element

8. c 9. d

Written Response

10. Responses will vary. In a model response, students should fulfill the following criteria:
- demonstrate understanding of the prompt
 - relate the speaker's travels on the seas to his views about life. For example:
 - The speaker's difficult seafaring experiences color his view of life; he believes life is difficult and brief. He also emphasizes the dangers and uncertainties of sea travel, so he seems to view life as perilous and unpredictable. However, he longs to be at sea again, so despite life's hardships, he still has hope and yearns for adventure.
 - support their ideas with at least two examples from "The Seafarer" (previous examples are sufficient)

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, page 7

1. d 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. a
6. d 7. c 8. b 9. c 10. b